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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To expand eligibility for certain housing programs for qualified volunteer
first responders.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GARBARINO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To expand eligibility for certain housing programs for
qualified volunteer first responders.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Volunteer First Re-
5 sponder Housing Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER; ELIGIBLE EM-
9 PLOYER; QUALIFIED SERVICES.—The terms “bona

1 fide volunteer”, “eligible employer”, and “qualified
2 services” have the meanings given those terms in
3 section 457(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of
4 1986.

5 (2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
6 has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in
7 section 501(b) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42
8 U.S.C. 1471(b)).

9 (3) QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIRST RE-
10 SPONDER.—The term “qualified volunteer first re-
11 sponder” means any individual who—

12 (A) is a bona fide volunteer performing
13 qualified services for an eligible employer;

14 (B) continuously served as a volunteer for
15 the eligible employer during the 2-year period
16 preceding the date on which the individual sub-
17 mits a verification letter under section 3(b) or
18 4(b);

19 (C) during each of the 2 years described in
20 subparagraph (B)—

21 (i) met the minimum requirements for
22 active membership established by the eligi-
23 ble employer; or

1 (ii) if the eligible employer did not es-
2 tablish minimum requirements, volunteered
3 for not less than 200 hours; and
4 (D) is certified as a firefighter or other
5 first responder in the State, political subdivision
6 of a State, or jurisdiction of an Indian Tribe in
7 which the individual is serving as volunteer.

8 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SINGLE FAMILY**
9 **HOUSING GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—A qualified volunteer first re-
11 sponder who submits to the Secretary of Agriculture (re-
12 ferred to in this section as the “Secretary”) a verification
13 letter in accordance with subsection (b) shall be eligible
14 for a deduction in annual income under section
15 3555.152(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or
16 any successor regulation), in the amount of \$18,000.

17 (b) VERIFICATION LETTER.—To be eligible for a de-
18 duction under subsection (a), a qualified volunteer first
19 responder shall submit to the Secretary a verification let-
20 ter from the head of the eligible employer for which the
21 qualified volunteer first responder volunteers, which
22 shall—

23 (1) include the date on which the qualified vol-
24 unteer first responder joined the eligible employer as
25 a volunteer;

1 (2) attest to the Secretary that the qualified
2 volunteer first responder meets the requirements
3 under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 2(3);
4 and

5 (3) include a copy of the certification described
6 in section 2(3)(D).

7 **SEC. 4. GOOD NEIGHBOR NEXT DOOR SALES PROGRAM**
8 **AND SIMILAR PROGRAMS.**

9 (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—A qualified volunteer first re-
10 sponder who submits to the Secretary of Housing and
11 Urban Development (referred to in this section as the
12 “Secretary”) a verification letter in accordance with sub-
13 section (b) shall qualify as a firefighter or emergency med-
14 ical technician for purposes of any single family property
15 disposition program carried out by the Secretary by regu-
16 lation under section 204(g) of the National Housing Act
17 (12 U.S.C. 1710(g)) that offers discounted home prices
18 to firefighters or emergency medical technicians.

19 (b) **VERIFICATION LETTER.**—To qualify to purchase
20 a home under a single family property disposition program
21 referred to in subsection (a), a qualified first responder
22 shall submit to the Secretary a verification letter from the
23 head of the eligible employer for which the qualified volun-
24 teer first responder volunteers, which shall—

1 (1) include the date on which the qualified vol-
2 unteer first responder joined the eligible employer as
3 a volunteer;

4 (2) attest to the Secretary that the qualified
5 volunteer first responder meets the requirements
6 under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 2(3);

7 (3) include a copy of the certification described
8 in section 2(3)(D); and

9 (4) include a certification from the qualified
10 volunteer first responder of the responder's good
11 faith intention to continue serving as a volunteer for
12 the eligible employer for not less than 1 year fol-
13 lowing the date of closing.